

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 135 – HB 98

February 16, 2017

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires all elections for state trial court judgeships, county judicial offices, and judicial clerk offices within Davidson and Shelby Counties to be conducted in a nonpartisan manner. Requires incumbents be listed first on the election ballot.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (003562): Deletes the language of the original bill requiring incumbents be listed first on the election ballot.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-13-203(e), only elections for state trial court judgeships and county judicial offices within Shelby County are conducted in a nonpartisan manner, if approved by the county legislative body.
- The proposed language would remove the approval of the county legislative body, add the election of judicial clerk offices, and expand applicability to include Davidson County.
- Conducting these elections in a nonpartisan manner will remove them from inclusion on the primary election ballot.
- According to the Department of State, removal of certain offices from inclusion on the primary election ballot will not result in any significant decrease to local government expenditures because primary elections will still be conducted for other county offices within Davidson and Shelby Counties.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jrh